(1993—1999). The surveys revealed that the micro seismic activity in this part of the Himalayas is not very intense. The Darjeeling-Sikkim Himalaya is, however, located within the Himalayan Main Seismic Belt (HMSB) and any strong earthquake (M-6.0) may occur in any part of the HMSB. If such an earthquake occures in the eastern Himalaya, it can, of course, cause damage including slope instability problems in Darjeeling and nearby areas. There is no methodology as on today, to predict earthquakes in space and time.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Potential of Bio-Mass Power

2222. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that against an estimated potential of 1700 MW of Bio Mass Power the installed capacity is only 69.5 MW; and

(b) if so, what is Government's plan to increase its installed capacity to fully exploit this potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Against a total estimated potential of about 19,500 MW, a total boimass power capacity of 256 MW has so far been installed in the country.

(b) Financial assistance is provided by way of capital subsidy for a limited number of demonstration projects and interest subsidy for commercial projects. The Central and State Government also provide fiscal and financial incentives, including relief from taxes and duties, accelerated depreciation, etc. 14 States have so far announced promotional policies for wheeling, banking and buy-back of electricity generated from commercial projects. Soft loans are provided by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for commercial projects. Financial assistance is also provided for preparation of detailed project reports, business/interaction meets and training programmes.

NGO's Association for Power Generation from Non-Conventional Energy Sources

2223. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to increase power generation from Non-Conventional Energy Sources considering its low percentage;

(b) whether the NGOs are associated to increase this percentage; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any criteria for the NGOs to work in this regard or receive grants from Government to enhance the use of Non-Conventional Energy Sources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has taken various steps for increasing power generation through major programmes of Non-Conventional Energy Sources throughout the country, which include fiscal, financial and promotional incentives provided by the Central Government under its various programmes, announcement of conducive policies for wheeling, banking, buy-back, third party sale and sales tax benefits by the State Government to attract private sector participation and soft loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).

(b) National level Non-Government Organisation (NGOs) have been associated with the Government's efforts to increase energy generation mainly in direct implementation of the National Project on Biogas Development and National Programme on Improved Chulha. NGOs are also entitled to receive grants under various schemes relating to the Wind Power, Small Hydro Power, Boimass, Solar Photovoltaic, Energy from Urban & Industrial Waste Sectors, etc.

(c) and (d) The Government provides funds to NGOs for implementation of major Non-Conventional Energy Sources programmes based on the subsidy pattern and incentives provided under various programmes subject to fulfillment of the terms and condition of General Financial Rules.

Power Generation Through Non-Conventional Energy Sources

†2224. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.